

Subject: supporting HB 2528

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to explain why I strongly support HB 2528.

I have been a dentist for over 25 years, and I was fortunate that our clinic chose to add Washington state's first dental therapist in 2016. I was initially unsure of how he would fit into our clinic and whether his work would meet my expectations. While there was some initial navigation of the new clinic dynamics, his work far exceeded my expectations and our clinic benefited immensely from the addition of this new provider. It worked out so well that we have since added two more dental therapists. It's been incredibly fun, and my job satisfaction has soared. We have gained the capacity to increase higher end services, have been financially able to remodel our clinic with newer equipment, and I was able to receive additional education to begin placing implants. It has been a win-win-win for myself, the clinic staff, and the community. Patients are receiving more preventive services, are not waiting as long for appointments, and they love seeing providers with whom they can more easily relate.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to learn more about my experience working with dental therapists or even feel free to set up a site visit to see the Dental Therapists in action! Once you see them, talk with them, and get a sense of how our clinic runs you will never have a doubt that Dental Therapists are not just great for dentistry but well overdue.

Thank you for your time,

Ray Dailey, DDS

Swinomish Dentist

(former dentist down in Chiloquin Or)